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ISRAEL'S SHAMIR MAKES STATEMENT ON ARRIVAL

PY131912 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1329 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Dec (DYN) -- Upon arriving in Argentina today, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said he will look into the problem of Jews who have been declared missing in Argentina, but refused to comment on his country's sale of arms to the government headed by President Reynaldo Bignone.

The minister, who began a 4-day visit to Buenos Aires this morning, also pointed out that he will discuss several other subjects with Argentine authorities except for the impact which U.S. opposition had on the sale of Israeli arms to Argentina. Shamir stated: "To be more precise, I want to point out, Mr Journalist, that I have not come to discuss that subject, and I don't know what you are referring to specifically."

In answering another question as to whether he will discuss the problem of missing Jews in Argentina with government authorities, he stated: "Naturally, I am going to bring up several issues, but as you can well understand, I cannot bring these subjects up with the media before I do so with the authorities." Shamir denied having been "advised" by the Jewish community in Argentina before he arrived in this capital that "this was not the right moment to visit the country," and pointed out that "on the contrary, the Jewish community has voiced its satisfaction over (?my visit to this) country."

The foreign minister became visibly nervous when a journalist asked him: "How can one understand your country's interest in respect for human rights and the problem of missing people in Argentina when Menahem Begin's government is charged with responsibility for the massacre of Palestinians in Lebanon?" Shamir's interpreter, who acted as the minister's spokesman with the journalists, answered that "there is a distorted idea about Israel in the world. For the time being we would rather not mention this subject. Anyway, we have called a press conference to which you are all cordially invited."

The visitor then pointed out that relationship between the Israeli Government and journalist Jacobo Timerman, former director of LA OPINION in this capital and who currently resides in Tel Aviv, is "no secret." He ended by stating that "Israel has always defended its people's rights and also wants to lessen Mr Timerman's troubles, although we are sorry that he resorts to offenses which are regrettable."

NICOLAIDES ENDS OFFICIAL VISIT TO PERU

PY131713 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2020 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Lima, 12 Dec (NA) -- Lt Gen Cristino Nicolaides maintained that the relationship and agreements reached by Argentina and Peru represent "the most adequate path to overcome -- without pacts -- the limiting alliances, irritating hegemonies and chronic restrictions which our countries endure." He added that this is the path "To make the Bolivian dream of a strong and united South America come true."

In a message addressed to "the Peruvian people" shortly before leaving for Buenos Aires, the army commander in chief emphasized the support received from Peru during the war over the Malvinas. He said that "all of the Peruvian people, their government and armed forces laid aside any speculation or doubt and decidely supported us." He pointed out that this action represents "an uncommon gesture in recent history and it deserves the eternal and deep gratitude of all the men and women of my fatherland."

In referring to the evident support and the agreements reached, General Nicolaides stated that "the prospect are generously open to cover the entire region."

He said that "the mutual willingness to cooperate in specific sectors, the capacity of joing efforts for carrying out projects in which legitimate interests are equitably contemplated, the possibility of achieving an effective complementation of our productive, technical, economic and financial capabilities have been demonstrated."

The army commander ended his message by stating that "the time I have spent in this land represent some of the happiest moments of my life" and voiced his best wishes for the greatness of Peru and the happiness of its people.

NICOLAIDES ON ARMED FORCES' ROLE IN GOVERNMENT

PY132001 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2020 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Dec (NA) -- Army Commander in Chief Lt Gen Cristino Nicolaides today underlined the armed forces' "undeniable dedication to democracy" and expressely confirmed that power will be handed over to Peronism if this party wins the next elections.

He also said that efforts are being made to "agree" with political leaders on "the most suitable mechanism" that will permit "the armed forces to play a proper role" within "the future constitutional functioning of the state." "Political stability will be achieved in Argentina," he went on, "when our institutions operate in fill agreement with the wise principles of the Constitution."

Nicolaides, who made the above remarks before getting on the plane which took him back to Buenos Aires early this morning after 4-day visit to Peru, reiterated "the firm determination to institutionalize the republic in the first month of 1984."

He also denied that a new security law was being studied, stressing that the armed forces "have maintained their capabilities" in order to prevent "violence from being used once again as a form of political action."

Concerning the results of his visit to Lima, Nicolaides remarked that "our most optimistic expectations have been amply surpassed."

He added that "at the beginning of this stage of the process," the armed forces "stated clearly their firm determination to institutionalize the republic in the first months of 1984." The Argentine Armed Forces," he went on, "have set the enforcement of a stable democracy as the essential objective of the military government."

After pointing out that in a democracy the people's will is expressed through ballot boxes, he said that "the armed forces' undeniable dedication to democracy answers the question of whether power would be handed over to Peronism."

Asked about what the guarantees for the continuity of democracy should be, he replied: "the wise principles of the Constitution."

Nicolaides was also asked whether the armed forces' future role -- from the viewpoint of the guidelines leading to a national accord -- did not in fact involve the institutionalization of this participation of the military in the future government. He replied: "We are not seeking to violate either the spirit or the letter of the Constitution."

"What we are seeking," he explained, "is to agree with national leaders on the most suitable mechanisms that will permit the armed forces to play a proper role within the next constitutional government." That role, he said, should involve "the participation of armed forces' leaders in the future constitutional functioning of the state."

He also said that "the Argentine Armed Forces are not afraid of subversion." "On the contrary," he said, "they have maintained their capability to implement, in the shortest time and at the lowest cost, the necessary security mechanisms that will prevent violence from being once again used as a form of political action."

In conclusion, Nicolaides referred to the results of his visit to Peru which, he said, had three purposes: attend the commemoration of Peruvian Army day, express Argentina's acknowledgement "for the generous and disinterested assistance rendered by Peru" at a difficult time, and to strengthen cooperation mechanisms. He noted that "an important agreement for industrial and technological cooperation and complementation" has been signed, and that "it will strengthen our bilateral ties." He added that the agreement "opens a path of unexpected possibilities for the actual integration of our potentialities and creates opportunities for extending such cooperation to other countries in the region."

Denies Secret Document Report

PY111959 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 000 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Undated interview of Argentine Army Commander in Chief Lt Gen Cristino Nicolaides by Raul Barcelo in Lima, Peru -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Question] General Nicolaides, what comment can you make on reports, mainly from the United States, related to a secret document stating that General Nicolaides would be installed as president of the nation within the next few days?

[Answer] It is an absurd report designed as a base political move. In Argentina, that document has proven to be unfounded; it is the product of biased and destabilizing interests. Moreover, I can give assurances that the assertions made in that document are totally false and that the Argentine Army is not responsible for it. The commander in chief will fulfill -- something he has repreated many times -- his promise to support the present administration so that is can attain the objectives set for the present transition period, and finally the constitutional outcome that all the Argentine people desire. The Argentine people can rest assured in this regard.

BRIEFS

COST OF LIVING INCREASE -- Buenos Aires, 7 Dec (TELAM) -- The Economy Ministry today disclosed that cost of living increased 11.3 percent in November this year. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1654 GMT 7 Dec 82 PY]

NEW OIL WELL -- Mendoza, 4 Dec (NA) -- Reliable government sources have reported that a new oil well which is producing 1,500 cubic meters of oil daily has been drilled in Agrelo deposits, 35 km from Mendoza. [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1230 GMT 4 Dec 82 PY]

FOREIGN MINISTER CONFIRMS GAS SALE TO BRAZIL

PY132006 Paris AFP in Spanish 1558 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Text] Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 11 Dec (AFP) -- Bolivia will receive an annual income of more than $1 billion in return for supplying 400 million cubic feet of natural gas daily to Brazil, Foreign Minister Mario Velarde Dorado stated here today. The foreign minister returned to this capital after attending a meeting of foreign ministers of the River Plate Basin. He also confirmed earlier remarks made by President Hernan Siles Zuazo who noted that gas sales will be made only upon confirming the size of Bolivia's gas reserves. A foreign company will conclude its study on Bolivian gas reserves by 10 July 1983. The export of surplus gas will compensate for the drop in mining production and sales, Siles Zuazo said. The actual sale will thus probably be made 3 years from now.

According to earlier agreements signed by the Bolivian Government Oil Deposits (YPFB) and the Brazilian Petroleum Enterprise (Petrobras), Bolivia will have to sell gas to Brazil for 20 years. But first, a gas pipeline linking the cities of Santa Cruz and Sao Paulo will have to be built at a cost of $2.7 billion.

GOVERNMENT WORKERS CALL 24-HOUR STOPPAGE 14 DEC

PY131944 Paris AFP in Spanish 1554 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] La Paz, 13 Dec (AFP) -- Bolivian Government workers will call a 24-hour stoppage tomorrow, Tuesday, to demand the immediate legal recognition of their unions, it was reported here today. The stoppage called by the government workers is designed to cause the repeal of Article 104 of the General Labor Law which prevents government workers from organizing unions.

President Hernan Siles Zuazo and the labor minister were able to get government workers to suspend stoppages announced earlier by pledging to promote legal recognition of their unions by Congress. The National Congress, which has not yet received any draft law guaranteeing the government workers' right to freely organize in unions, will adjourn its 1982 session next Friday.

COMMUNIST LEADER KOLLE VIEWS COUNTRY'S SITUATION

AU101250 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 6 Dec 82 p 6

["Pos"-signed report: "Important Victory of the People; Interview With J. Kolle, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Bolivia," passages in all capitals denote boldface as published]

[Text] A FEW DAYS AGO COMRADE JORGE KOLLE, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF BOLIVIA, PAID A BRIEF VISIT TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA. COMRADE KOLLE IS A COMMUNIST REPRESENTATIVE OF A SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRY WHOSE PEOPLE HAVE RECENTLY ACHIEVED AN IMPORTANT VICTORY -- THE MILITARY DICTATORSHIP WAS FORCED TO RESIGN AND POWER HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER BY A GOVERNMENT OF THE FRONT OF PEOPLE'S AND DEMOCRATIC UNITY (FUDP) LED BY PRESIDENT HERNAN SILES ZUAZO. THE FIRST QUESTION OF OUR CORRESPONDENT, WHOM COMRADE KOLLE GRANTED AN INTERVIEW, CONCERNED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS BIG CHANGE.

The new situation in Bolivia means a very profound political change, Comrade Kolle said. The TRANSITION FROM THE MILITARY, NARCO-FASCIST DICTATORSHIP (as it is called in our country because of its big role in smuggling narcotics) TO A PEOPLE'S AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT REPRESENTS, AT ANY RATE, A CHANGE OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR BOLIVIA. However, it was neither a gift, nor the result of any special treatment. It was the outcome of the tenacious, selfless, truly heroic struggle of our people, the workers class and the miners in particular against the bourgeoisie's fascist dictatorship.

Since 1971 (when the progressive military government of Gen J.J. Torres was overthrown -- RUDE PRAVO editorial note) our people, the workers class and its political leadership have been systematically unmasking the fascist regime and exposing its true plans, designs and policy. And in the end we have prevailed. International solidarity imbued us with confidence in this struggle. The most important herald of victory was the year 1978 when the FUDP won the elections for the first time.

The goal of the FUDP, which forms the present Bolivian Government, is contained in its very name. It was led to its electoral victory by workers, peasants and the middle classes, whose interests it champions. THE FUDP IS MADE UP OF THREE POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS: THE NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT OF THE LEFT (MNRI), THE MOVEMENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR) AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF BOLIVIA. All these three political organizations act in mutual solidarity and share responsibility in the government.

How does Comrade Kolle characterize the major tasks facing the government?

The consequences of the economic, political and moral crisis left behind by the reactionary regime are extraordinarily serious, the Bolivian guest stressed. In the economy it is the growth of foreign debt, whose repayment this year alone will use up 75 percent of Bolivia's annual export revenues. In the last 2 years the increase in the cost of living has exceeded the wage increases several times. The 1982 national income will be 18 percent below that of 1981.

The situation in the social sphere is therefore very unstable. The workers of some enterprises are on strike. It is therefore necessary to solve problems in the interest of the working people as well as in the interest of the state, the whole country.

Ultraleftists and bourgeois reformists, frequently people who used to cooperate with the narcotics gangs of the reactionary army commanders, are trying to politically exploit the present difficult situation. There will also be difficulties in the parliament. Even though the FUDP achieved a convincing electoral victory, the rightwing has a two-thirds majority in parliament, owing to the old electoral system within the framework of which the vote take place. ITS AIM IS TO PRACTICE SOME SORT OF "DUALISM OF POWER," A DOUBLE RULE -- WHILE THE FUDP HAS EXECUTIVE POWER IN ITS HANDS, THE RIGHTWING HAS A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY.

However, there is also a complicated situation in the armed forces, to be more accurate, at certain levels of the corps of commanders, where there still are high-placed officers compromised by their close cooperation with the former dictatorship and imperialism. There we must see the main source of putschist forces. U.S. imperialism, too, has by no means become reconciled to the positive change in our country and the Bolivian oligarchy, in collusion with supranational monopolies, is doing everything it can against this change.

The world press has recently reported about the support of the Hitlerite war criminal Barbie-Altman for the fascist generals. Can you confirm these reports? We asked our guest.

Yes, it is true, Comrade Kolle nodded. Barbie, together with his helpers, collaborated very closely and systematically with the repressive regime. The same is true of other, lesser-known or unknown fascists. It is known today that even some Argentine soldiers of fascist disposition, especially navy officers, as well as some Italian Mafiosi assisted the former terrorist regime in forming semi-military gangs, suppressing democracy and the democrats and protecting the interests of gangs living off the production and smuggling of narcotics.

In concluding the interview, Comrade Kolle stressed: A unique feature of Bolivia, compared with other Latin American countries, is the PREDOMINANCE OF THE STATE SECTOR. THIS IS TRUE ESPECIALLY OF THE MOST IMPORTANT BRANCHES SUCH AS THE EXTRACTION OF PRECIOUS METALS AND CRUDE OIL AND TRANSPORTATION. The joint endeavor of the progressive forces is that the working people's participation not be confined to mere control but that it become a true participation in management. Our aim is to achieve an effective balance between the government agencies' managerial activities and the activities of the self-administrations made up of workers and other working people. We believe that the working people, their political leadership and the Bolivian people's revolutionary experience and fighting power as well as international solidarity will ensure further progress, Comrade Kolle said in the end.

FIGUEIREDO-BIGNONE MEETING SET FOR 13 JANUARY

PY111908 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Text] President Figueiredo will meet with his Argentine counterpart Reynaldo Bignone in the city of Porto Meira, Parana State, on 13 January. According to the Argentine Embassy, four main subjects will dominate the talks: plans for more transportation and communication links between the two countries, a new bilateral rapprochement policy, the Latin American political situation and the process of democratic opening in the two countries. Diplomatic sources feel that it is possible that President Bignone will take the opportunity to thank President Figueiredo for all the solidarity Argentina received from Brazil during 1982, and especially during the Malvinas war.

POLICE BREAK UP COMMUNIST CONGRESS, ARREST 84

PY141051 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Excerpts] The Federal Police today dissolved in Sao Paulo the seventh national congress of the Brazilian Communist Party [PCB], which had been in preparation for the past 2 years. Eighty four persons were detained and taken to the Federal Police Department for questioning and to formally face charges of having violated the national security law.

The meeting was being held at No 30 (Praca Dom Jose Gaspar), the office of the newspaper VOZ DA UNIDADE, the PCB official newspaper.

A Federal Police note states that several PCB delegates from Brazilian states were detained. Also present were the new members of the PCB Central Committee, headed by Secretary General Giocondo Dias.

(Helio Roman), the main coordinator ofthe Federal Police Department, said that the 84 PCB members will be released by tomorrow afternoon, when individual questioning will have been completed. Police sources also said that the operation, which resulted in the detention of several persons, was ordered by the Justice Ministry and the National Intelligence Service.

Planalto Palace spokesman Carlos Atila said the operation was not carried out following express orders of the federal government but by the action of a police commissioner who identified a crime and adopted the measures established in the Constitution. He regarded the operation as mere compliance with the constitutional provision that bans any gathering of members of a political party which is proscribed in the country.

The Sao Paulo branch of the Workers Party [PT] issued an official note rejecting the imprisonment of 84 persons by the Federal Police. The PT expresses its solidarity with the PCB members and reaffirms its absolute defense of the right to free political and union association and demands the immeduate granting of legal recognition to those organizations which are today forced to act underground.

The Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party also issued an official note on the incident. The note states that the right to assemble is guaranteed by the Constitution and by the universal declaration of the rights of men. It adds that any violation of these rights should be rejected by all democratic men, especially when these violations are committed in the name of an authoritarian national security law that is out of keeping with the country's current historical time.

SEPLAN COMMUNIQUE ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH IMF

PY112142 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Dec 82 p 1

[Text] The Brazilian Government yesterday reached an agreement with the IMF mission on 6 main items of Brazil's 1983 economic policy. Among these items are the reduction of next year's inflation rate to 70 percent, the reduction of the balance of payments deficit from $14.5 billion to $7 billion and a strict control of public expenditures. However, until the government issued an official note disclosing what was being negotiated a number of rumors, all of which were later denied by Finance Ministry Secretary General Carlos Viacava, were floated. Concerning the rumor about a maxi-devaluation, he said "don't we have a rumor about maxidevaluations every day? This is just another one." On the report that the branch of the Banco do Brasil in New York had problems in balancing its accounts [fechar posicoes] the day before yesterday, Viacava said: "Had they failed to do so, everyone would have known by now." The meeting of Ministers Delfim Neto and Ernane Galveas, and Central Bank President Carlos Langoni with the IMF mission at Planalto Palace lasted 8 hours, but it was not the final meeting. The note of the Planning Secretariat, Seplan, reported that the IMF mission will end its task by the end of next week.

Herewith text of Seplan's note: During a meeting of Ministers Delfim Neto and Ernane Galveas and Central Bank President Carlos Langoni with Alexandre Kafka and the IMF mission headed by Horst Struckmeyer at Planalto Palace today, the basic items of the economic policy which the Brazilian Government wants to implement in 1983 were discussed and agreed upon. These are the six basic topics of the talks:

1. The basic adjustments to various sectors of the Brazilian economy, whose implementation started in 1982 and will continue in 1983, are aimed at achieving sustained economic development over the coming years.

2. The anti-inflationary policy will be directed toward reaching by the end of December 1983 a general price level only 70 percent higher than that of December 1982. Efforts will be made to substantially reduce inflation in 1984 and 1985.

3. The program for the foreign sector, which has already been approved by the National Monetary Council, will seek to reduce the balance of payments deficit to less than $7.9 billion compared to the $14.5 billion estimated for this year. The financial plan to cover the deficit involves the largest banks of the international financial system and the IMF.

4. The Brazilian Government will pursue its policy of increasing incentives aimed at saving and conserving scarce resources such as petroleum byproducts.

5. The government is also implementing the measures necessary to guarantee a suitable price adjustment for the iron and steel and electric power sectors, as well as for other public utilities services so as to save public enterprises from financial problems, without creating inflationary pressures.

6. Within the framework of an anti-inflationary struggle and readjustment of the balance of payments, public expenditures will be made in keeping with strict austerity measures.

New technical meetings will be held with the IMF mission, which is expected to conclude its work by the end of next week.

UN RESOLUTION ENDS CRITICAL RIGHTS REPORTS

PY11059 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] Chile has carried out a successful diplomatic action at the United Nations. The UN General Assembly has refused to grant authorization to a special assistant to continue with his work consisting of drawing up reports on alleged human rights violations in Chile. The amendment, which was submitted by Great Britain, was approved by 46 votes to 42, with 42 abstentions. Chile was supported by the majority of the Latin American bloc and by the United States, Canada and the FRG. During the meeting, several representatives denounced the discriminatory treatment that the United Nations is giving to Chile on the subject of human rights.

Foreign Minister Comments

PY131834 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Rene Rojas Galdames has termed positive the recommendations of the 3rd UN Human Rights Commission to eliminate its monitor. The foreign minister stated that it will be up to the General Assembly now to ratify these recommendations. The foreign minister made these remarks on returning to the Foreign Ministry from La Moneda Palace.

Rojas Galdames stated that this morning he participated in a meeting of the Presidential Advisory Council, including Interior Minister Enrique Montero. He added that he was received by the president of the republic, and that they discussed several matters related to the Foreign Ministry and other issues such as the UN resolution on human rights.

Regarding Argentine rumors on the Beagle conflict, the foreign minister said that so far we have only heard the press report. But there is no doubt, he added, that if these rumors, which are attributed to the Argentine president, are true, it is news.

MINISTER DENIES PLANS TO FREEZE TIME DEPOSITS

PY132004 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Economy and Finance Minister Rolf Luders has denied the possibility of freezing time deposits in financial institutions. He made this statement through a communique released today, the text of which reads as follows:

Several persons have expressed their concern to the economic authorities regarding rumors that have been circulated, having an intention we would rather not mention, that a possible freezing of time deposits in the financial institutions is under study. In view of these consultations and expressions of concern, the economy and finance minister once again categorically denies that the economic authorities may be considering a measure of this nature. On the contrary, a tax proposal has been prepared to encourage savings in its various forms, one of which is the time deposit in the financial system, the communique concludes.

BETANCUR MEETS WITH ROK PRIME MINISTER

PA100307 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0157 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] Bogota, 9 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- Colombian President Belisario Betancur spoke here today for an hour in his office with ROK Prime Minister Kim Sang-hyop, who is on an official visit to Colombia. An official communique reported that the chief of state and the prime minister discussed topics of mutual interest to the two countries. A member of the government's economic team said that South Korea expressed interest in strengthening its trade with Colombia and other Latin American countries.

21 M-19 GUERRILLAS SURRENDER IN CAQUETA

PA132025 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Florencia, Caqueta -- Twenty-one guerrillas belonging to the 19 April Movement turned themselves in to local authorities, seeking to benefit from the amnesty law that was recently signed by President Belisario Betancur. The guerrillas, led by known leader (Conrado Marin), made initial remarks to our correspondent (Fernando Bahamon), who will present a report on this and (Marin's) exclusive statement:

[Begin (Bahamon) recording] Florencia -- Guerrilla Commander (Marin), alias Efren or Rene, put his weapons down today when he went to Villa Fatima, a farm owned by the Caqueta Curia, and turned himself in together with 20 guerrillas among whom 5 were women. The legendary combatant from the Remolinos area in Caqueta turned himself in to Caqueta Bishop Msgr (Jose Luis Herna Alzate), who arrived in Florencia early today and took the guerrillas to the peasant union, where they are waiting for the government's guarantee to respect their lives and for credit benefits to permit them to work the land. The guerrilla commander had recently clashed with troops of the (Refles and El Tarqui) Battalion, when he lost 18 men and 4 women were captured with their weapons. [end recording]

LOPEZ MICHELSEN MADE TEMPORARY LIBERAL LEADER

PA120618 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0008 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Bogota, 12 Dec (EFE) -- Former Colombian President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen was reelected today as the sole chief of the Liberal Party, until a central political commission is designated. A national convention that met in this capital asked Lopez, who resigned from the position, to remain in the post until the members of the party, which is traditionally the largest in the country, elect a central commission. Lopez accepted the post but confirmed that he will only remain in the position until he can delegate his obligations to the most important body of the party. The Liberal Party, according to the statements of the delegates, should redefine its ideology to recover power, which is now in the hands of the Conservative Party.

BRIEFS

COOPERATION WITH BRAZIL -- President Belisario Betancur has approved Law 39 of 3 December 1982 regarding the scientific and technological cooperation agreement signed between the Colombian and Brazilian Government. [Text] [Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 2330 GMT 6 Dec 82 PA]

NEW CHIEF OF STAFF -- Maj Gen Jose Maria Arbelaez Caballero has been appointed new chief of staff and deputy commander of the National Army, replacing Maj Gen Rafael Obdulio Forero Moreno. [Bogota El Espectador in Spanish 8 Dec 82 p 14A PA]

M-19 DENIES PARTICIPATION IN RECENT SKIRMISH

PA111727 Paris AFP in Spanish 1554 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] Quito, 10 Dec (AFP) -- In a communique addressed to Ecuadorean President Osvaldo Hurtado the Colombian 19 April Movement (M-19) denied responsibility and participation in the skirmish along the San Miguel River, in the eastern border area.

[Words indistinct] an Ecuadorean military patrol was attacked from the Colombian side of the border. A captain was wounded in a leg.

The communique also noted that a year ago the M-19 was accused of attacking and disarming Ecuadorean soldiers, but a coordinated military operation resulted in the capture of the guilty parties and proved that the M-19 had nothing to do with it. The charges, however, were never denied, the communique said and added that efforts were even made to link the organization with the death of Ecuadorean President Jaime Roldos, "because there are forces in Colombia who want to continue the oppression, to wipe out public freedoms and institute oligarchic domination through violence against the people." The communique insisted that those same forces "are also determined to create ill feelings among the Ecuadorean people and institutions against the M-19 which has upheld, upholds and will continue to uphold the principle of respect for the sovereignty of nations and the free determination of peoples."

MINISTER ON OIL PRODUCTION, COMING OPEC MEETING

PA101645 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Dec 82

[Text] Gustavo Galindo, Ecuadorean natural resources and energy minister, said today that if OPEC's total production for world markets does not create an oversupply, crude prices might remain at their present levels. He also said that this will be Ecuador's position at a meeting of oil ministers to be held in Vienna this month. He stressed that, according to his estimates, in 1983 OPEC production may reach 19.2 million barrels daily. He explained, however, that this is only a rough estimate. The official figure will be calculated after studying the markets and the production on non-OPEC countries.

VICE PRESIDENT ROLDOS PROPOSES ECONOMIC PLAN

PA101746 Paris AFP in Spanish 0127 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] Quito, 9 Dec (AFP) -- Vice President Leon Roldos Aguilera has presented for the consideration of Ecuador's most representative sectors a 3-year plan that would stabilize the country's economy. Roldos proposes rescheduling the foreign debt to 1984 and 1985 and reactivating production by creating more jobs. He also proposes rescheduling debt payments that have not come due, especially those related to the country's exports. To accomplish this, Roldos proposes the creation of a committee to investigate overcharging and undercharging.

The plan also includes designing a wage policy to achieve stability for the next 3 years and streamlining the laws dealing with development. Roldos believes that it would now be beneficial for the country to reduce by 50 percent the industrial protection given to some sectors.

The vice president's plan will be presented for the consideration of the country's most representative sectors, especially those in the economic and political fields.

PRIME MINISTER DISCLOSES RESIGNATION LETTER

PY132340 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1802 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Lima, 13 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- Manuel Ulloa, president of the Council of Ministers, published a letter today in which he states the reasons for his leaving his post. Among others, he mentions his desire to participate in the ruling party's electoral campaigns for the 1983 municipal election and the 1985 general election. In a letter addressed to President Fernando Belaunde Terry, Ulloa revealed his decision to leave the ministerial post after 29 months in office.

Belaunde yesterday announced Ulloa's departure from the posts of prime minister and economy minister and named Fernando Schwalb, a diplomat, to replace Ulloa. He also said that there will be other cabinet changes in January. Belaunde did not make it clear whether Schwalb, the current Peruvian ambassador in Washington and first vice president of the republic, will also be the new economy minister, but hinted at Schwalb' replacing Foreign Minister Javier Arias Stella, who has been in office since July 1980 when a democratic administration took office after 12 years of military rule.

My resignation is irrevocable...and on leaving the government I am worried about two basic aspects of national life: The economic policy, which was so bitterly criticized by our ignorant adversaries but which was recognized both inside and outside the country as the best that could be adopted under the difficult circumstances we had inherited, and the extremely serious domestic situation we are going through, Ulloa said in his letter.

Ulloa recommended that Belaunde carry on his economic policy and warned that any abrupt change or unusual development could bring disastrous results to the country and could plunge it into disorder and confusion...

Ulloa's political adversaries criticized his economic policy and held him responsible for the cost of living having risen 65.6 percent thus far this year and for the sol having been devalued 85 percent in relation to the dollar. Inflation last year reached 72.7 percent and monetary devaluation 77 percent. Peru's foreign debt, which exceeds $11 billion, increased 40 percent during Ulloa's tenure.

Our other major concern is the mounting terrorism and subversive actions which seek to destroy both the Peruvian society and its institutions, Ulloa said. Ulloa said that in this battlefield the government should not hesitate to use all available resources to fight terrorism and to defeat it as soon as possible.

Ulloa said that he will now devote most of his time to his duties as senator for Popular Action, keeping in mind the municipal election of 1983 and the presidential election of 1985. I want to fully commit myself to them (the elections) and to my congressional duties, Ulloa -- who is mentioned as a presidential contender for his party -- said.

Ulloa is the fifth minister who has resigned since Belaunde's inauguration. The Lima press today said that Ulloa would be replaced by Carlos Rodriguez Pastor, now chief of the international division of the Wells Fargo Bank, as economy minister; Fernando Rincon Bazo would replace Gen, retired, Jose Gagliardi as interior minister and Carlos Pestana would replace Fernando Chavez Belaunde as the new transport and communications minister. President Belaunde said the change of ministers should not be considered a cabinet crisis but just normal replacements.

ARIAS STELLA SAYS CABINET TO RESIGN 14 DEC

PY141418 Lima Radio Union in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Excerpt] All members of the ministerial cabinet will present their collective resignation today, in solidarity with the position of Prime Minister Ulloa, and to give freedom to the president of the republic to reorganize his new cabinet, Foreign Minister Javier Arias Stella stated.

PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE ON FUTURE PLANS

PY141215 Paris AFP in Spanish 0005 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] Lima, 13 Dec (AFP) -- Fernando Schwalb, the new Peruvian prime minister designated by President Fernando Belaunde, stated today that he will vigorously fight terrorism to weed it out in a short period and that he will face the economic crisis. He did not discard the possibility that on assuming his post, in January 1983, he might also assume the post of foreign minister.

In his fist remarks since his designation on Sunday, made today to a Lima radio station from Washington, where he is working as Peruvian ambassador, Schwalb, who is also the first vice president of the republic, added that greater efforts and decision are needed to solve the problems affecting the country. He said it was necessary to work closely with President Belaunde to consolidate the institutional and democratic order.

Schwalb will replace the current prime minister and head of the economic, finance and trade sectors, Manuel Ulloa, who presented his resignation to the president after 2 and 1/2 years in those posts. During that time, Ulloa was harshly criticized by the social deomocratic opposition of the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance [APRA], the United Left Coalition, and also by the cogoverning Popular Christian Party, of the extreme right.

Schwalb told the radio station that he will decisively and firmly face the economic and political situation, and added that the cabinet reshuffle will be partial. Schwalb did not discard the possibility of assuming the position of foreign minister, although he declined to mention the name of his candidates for the different ministries before talking to President Belaunde.

PRESIDENT VIEWS TIES WITH FRANCE, U.S.

PM131641 Paris LE FIGARO in French 9 Dec 82 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid by Jean Miot in Mexico City on 1 December]

[Text] Mexico City -- Question: What are the prospects for joint action by Mexico and France? What about such action in the framework of the North-South dialogue and in the spirit of Cancun? What about such action in the framework of traditional bilateral relations and commercial and cultural exchanges?

Answer: Mexico and France have a tradition of cordial relations. French culture has always been respected and admired in Mexico. It has had a great influence on our political ideology and our education systems and on our culture in general.

I want to pursue, extend and strengthen relations between France and Mexico, especially because there are aspects of the French Government's policy which coincide with Mexico's positions in foreign policy. That was obvious during the North-South dialogue and from the importance which France has attached to easing international problems, encouraging more cordial relations between the industrialized countries and the developing countries, and encouraging the transfer of technology as a means of promoting world development.

I will try to extend the political as well as the economic and commercial aspects of Franco-Mexican relations and, of course, I will try to strengthen our traditional ties with French culture.

Question: Does Mexico now regard itself as the natural mediator between the United States and Latin America and more especially in the regions most shaken by the revolutionary movements -- Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador?

Answer: Mexico does not aspire to be regarded as a mediator in all the conflicts which might exist in the Central American area. Mexico is prepared to collaborate with the Central American countries and with any other country which would try to obtain a peaceful and just solution to the present tensions.

Mexico regards Central America as an area of special and vital interest.

Not only are they our neighbors geographically but they are also our brothers with regard to history, the mixture of races and our destiny.

What happens in Central America is of fundamental importance to Mexico. Following the principles of self-determination for countries and nonintervention, Mexico will always be ready to cooperate with its brothers to find solutions to all aspects of their problems.

Historical Ties With Cuba

Question: Do you intend to continue the relations of good friendship which your predecessor maintained with Havana? Can such relations help to stabilize the threatened Central American zones?

Answer: Mexico was one of the few countries on the American Continent to have permanent diplomatic relations with the Havana government. We have these relations because we respect its full right to determine its own political and economic system just as we respect the right of all other countries to do so.

There are also very close historical ties between Cuba and Mexico. The first expeditions which explored and conquered the territory which was later to become New Spain and which is now Mexico, started from Cuba. Our peoples are united in history and culture and we will maintain the best possible relations.

Question: The population explosion, emigration to the United States, and the foreign debt: What solution do you advocate for tackling these three major problems?

Answer: The problems of the debt, population growth and emigration to the United States are linked.

Ours is a country whose population growth has taken place at a very high rate. Population growth has largely neutralized our efforts and the good results in economic growth.

I propose to pursue a population policy aimed at reducing our population's growth rate.

During the sixties we reached a population growth rate of around 3.5 percent. At present that rate has been reduced to 2.5 percent thanks to family planning programs.

I propose to pursue them, placing particular emphasis on the rural areas and poor urban areas. The aim will be to continue to reduce the population growth rate in order to achieve 1 percent in the year 2000.

The problem of Mexican emigration to the United States is the result of structural economic problems in Mexico and the United States. In Mexico it is because our economy has not been able to create sufficient jobs, especially because of lack of capital, and very probably also because of the Mexican economic system's low level of productivity and efficiency.

In the United States the structural cause stems from the fact that that country's growth met with a lack of available labor for some work and the Mexicans were prepared to occupy those posts.

When measures were taken in the United States to limit Mexican immigration or oust those already there, the posts left vacant did not interest American workers.

I repeat that this is a structural problem of two different stages of economic development and that is how the solutions should be envisaged.

The more we are able to create economic growth and jobs in our country, the less Mexican emigration to the United States there will be.

A Concern for Independence

Question: Do you not think that the obligatory understanding which has always existed between Mexico and the United States should be replaced by a formal agreement between the two nations whose interests are closely linked?

Answer: U.S. and Mexican interests coincide in some cases; in others they do not. Interdependence between two neighbors is obvious in all cases but I think that at the top of our scale of values is the concern to maintain our full political independence and to strengthen our independence and sense of nationality from the economic and cultural viewpoint.

On the basis of this position of complete independence and nationalist feeling, we can find better solutions to the problems which we have with the United States and mutually exploit the relations which we have in different spheres.

Question: Are you planning a trip to Europe and France soon?

Answer: I have no plans for trips abroad at present. There is a great deal to be done here in Mexico given the economic crisis we are experiencing.

I will be very interested to visit France and other European countries as soon as possible.

UNO MAS UNO CRITICIZES RIOS MONTT REGIME

PA1000438 Havana International Service in Spanish 000 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] The Mexican paper UNO MAS UNO has charged that the Guatemalan regime headed by Efrain Rios Montt is characterized by the massive killings of rural citizens and the absence of respect for human rights.

In a series of articles published this week, the newspaper summarizes the Guatemalan political situation since March when Rios Montt seized power through a military coup.

It adds that with the promulgation of an amnesty that only benefits the torturers of the dictatorship and was aimed at giving a legal status to the regime, Rios Montt got the United States and Israel to openly give their military aid. As a result of this, UNO MAS UNO noted, during fiscal year 1983 Washington will grant to Guatemala $250,000 for military training, $3.7 million for spare parts for military equipment and $50 million for development in western Guatemala, where popular discontent and insurgency are most noticeable.

In addition, (Adrian Sandoval), president of the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission, stated that Rios Montt is trying to hide an arbitrary and genocidal policy behind Christian and democratic messages. However, he warned, Rios Montt's words do not convince the international public.

CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS TO HOLD MINISUMMIT

PA131809 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1716 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 12 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Guatemalan Foreign Minister Eduardo Castillo Arriola has confirmed here that the presidents of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala will hold a minisummit. Although the minister did not specify either date or place, it has been learned from reliable sources that the meeting may be held in a place known as El Trifineo, or in the city of Esquipulas, Chiquemula Department, where the three countries' territories converge.

Castillo Arriola said the meeting will be held soon. According to the other sources consulted, the meeting may be held in mid-January.

Castillo Arriola explained that no specific agenda has been outlined yet, but all signs point to the old idea of creating an army among the three countries with the intention of fighting subversion, possibly within the framework of the Central American Democratic Community.

The minister added that the meeting was suggested by Guatemalan President Efrain Rios Montt during his recent meeting with his Salvadoran counterpart, Alvaro Magana, and with Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova.

A few days ago, during his usual Sunday message, Rios Montt said that when he suggested the meeting to his counterparts, both agreed to attend.

TEXT OF MAGANA-RIOS MONTT 2 DEC DECLARATION

PA132305 Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 6 Dec 82 p 2

[Joint declaration signed by Guatemalan President Efrain Rios Montt and Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana on the occasion of the Guatemalan president's visit to San Salvador on 2 December]

[Text] Alvaro Magana Borja, provisional president of El Salvador, and Brig Gen Jose Efrain Rios Montt, president of Guatemala, met in the city of San Salvador to continue the cordial and friendly dialogue on matters related to their peoples and governments and the Central American region that they began in Guatemala on 29 June 1982. As a result of their new and productive exchange of views, they decided to issue the following joint declaration:

1. The chiefs of state confirmed the consolidation of the fraternal relations that exist between their peoples and governments and their decision to continue their efforts to strengthen these relations as much as possible in order to maintain the most appropriate climate for the solution of their common problems at the bilateral, regional and international levels.

2. The presidents of El Salvador and Guatemala agreed on their firm objective of revitalizing the democratic institutions, rescuing the people's essential values and their national dignity as well as guaranteeing them a future of peace, well-being and progress. The presidents exchanged information on the measures adopted and the accomplishment made in pursuit of those noble goals. They also agreed on the idea that to provide their peoples with those optimum living conditions, they must continue their unceasing struggle against subversion and strengthen the economic, social and political reform programs.

They also agreed the help and sacrifice of all sectors of their two countries are essential in this task for national survival.

3. They again examined the area's situation, the return to normality of which is becoming increasingly imperative to prevent Central America from being used as a center of unrest, thus threatening regional peace and security with unforeseen repercussions.

4. In this serious context and under those dangerous prospects, they reiterated their belief that frank, sincere and direct dialogue among area governments is the most appropriate path to eliminate those differences that might exist among them; they urged the other area countries to conform to the principles of international law, especially with regard to strictly complying with the principles of mutual respect, nonintervention in the domestic or foreign affairs of states and the peaceful resolution of international disputes, as fundamental premises in the relations among governments.

5. They recognized the existence of political factors that are having a negative and dangerous influence on the regional problems. These factors include an arms buildup which is disproportionate to the real defense needs of the state; the arms traffic directed at supplying the armed struggle of subversive elements; terrorism supported by foreign forces, a distortion of political fanaticism which is an attack on a legal state, an essential foundation of all Christian, civilized and democratic societies. The two presidents condemned these actions against the security and peaceful coexistence of the Central American people and they reaffirmed their unwavering intention to fight against such acts and any other activity supported from abroad to destablilize the countries of the region.

6. They renewed their firm objective of respecting, promoting and protecting the exercise of human rights and humankind's essential freedoms as inherent rights and basic principles in all democratic regimes at both the domestic and international levels.

7. In the face of the deterioration of the Central American Common Market, they expressed their political determination to adopt all measures necessary to implement and develop a realistic and feasible program of Central American integration in accordance with the region's circumstances and aimed primarily at the economically weak sectors of their countries. In the immediate future, the Central American integration process should include the political, economic and social fields in order to effectively contribute to the well-being and prosperity of area peoples.

8. The Guatemalan president thanked the Salvadoran president for the cordial treatment he and his delegation have received during their current visit which was made in response to the Salvadoran president's kind invitation.

Issued in San Salvador on 2 December 1982. [Signed] Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana Borja; Guatemalan President Gen Jose Efrain Rios Montt

COSTA RICA

HUMAN RIGHTS CONGRESS ENDS, ISSUES RESOLUTIONS

PA131552 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] The First World Congress on Human Rights, held in Costa Rica, closed yesterday in the city of Alajuela with a number of resolutions that are expressed in the Alajuela document. The 15-point document represents the views of the delegates from 25 countries who attended this international meeting, which involved an analysis of various aspects of human rights in different parts of the world.

It recognized that Costa Rica is one of the few countries where human rights are fully respected; as a result, several resolutions recommend that this country be given a special status in the world.

The representatives of the 25 countries who participated in the weeklong First World Congress on Human Rights recommended that Costa Rica be made the world center for the study, research, defense and promotion of human rights. The Alajuela document also recommends that the international community approve a statute of permanent neutrality for Costa Rica, in recognition of the fact that it is the only country in the world that abolished the death penalty 32 years ago. It also urges the Costa Rican Government to intensify its actions in the United Nations to promote the creation of the high commissioner on human rights.

The World Congress on Human Rights recommended the creation of an international penal court on human rights (?under) the United Nations, which would establish its won international radio and television service on human rights. It also urged the United Nations to begin this project in Costa Rica. It recommended the creation of an international commission for the investigation of human rights. Another resolution recommends to the world's countries that another congress of this kind be organized; a special commission was placed in charge of doing so.

While declaring that it is urgent that political regimes be established in the world that can (?guarantee) social security, ideological pluralism and alternation in power through free elections, the World Congress on Human Rights condemned military and despotic regimes. It also criticized the nuclear, bacteriological and chemical warfare industry because it constitutes a threat to all forms of life. It demanded the elimination of the death penalty worldwide and called for denouncing and struggling against the practice of torture, asking for an international agreement banning the use of torture. It also asked that a struggle be launched against those political regimes that are based on any kind of discriminatory practices.

MINISTER ADDRESSES POLICE COURSE GRADUATES

PA112011 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Text] A training course offered by Panamanian instructors at the national police academy ended today. Addressing the closing ceremony, Public Security Minister Angel Edmundo Solano reiterated the ministry's promise to provide Costa Rica with a capable, determined and efficient public force to guarantee peace and tranquillity.

We want good relations with all nations of the world, but we also want to be prepared so no one will try to violate our nation's territorial integrity, he pointed out.

We want normal relations with our neighbors, but we want to be prepared so that not an inch of our national territory is violated, he added.

Solano affirmed that Costa Rica wants to continue being civilian, but we are not going to permit crime, terrorism and subversion to upset the traditional Costa Rican way of life. That is why we are properly training our public force to guarantee peace and tranquillity so our people may work in peace and freedom and continue being productive.

A total of 178 officers received their certificates for satisfactory completion of the 3-month course taught by 13 Panamanian instructors.

Panamanian Speech

PA131559 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Speech by Col Manuel Antonio Noriega, deputy chief of the Panamanian National Guard's general staff, at a graduation ceremony held at the Costa Rican police academy on 10 December 1982, carried on the National Guard's regular Sunday program: "Everything for the Fatherland" -- recorded]

[Text] Gentlemen: I speak on behalf of Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella; on behalf of Gen Ruben Dario Paredes, commander in chief of the National Guard; on behalf of the other members of the National Guard's general staff; and on behalf of the National Guard of Panama.

Panama's presence here in Costa Rica is not unusual and should not lead to comment and distortions. Panama and Costa Rica have a common past of brotherhood and friendship. On the Chiriqui border, peoples and men unite, without any line or landmark to stop them. There, in peace, the people of Chiriqui go across and coexist with the people living on the other side of the border. Likewise, Costa Rican friends and brothers visit us and cross the border without problem.

Historically, we have fulfilled joint missions. Historically, we have carried out projects together. Today and always, we remain the same men and brothers who felt yesterday that peace is necessary, just and must be defended. This is why we are here. We are not here as intruders, but as brothers, as men who want liberty and peace, as men who speak the same democratic language. We are here without doing harm to Costa Rica's culture and laws, without profaning the beliefs and spirit of the Costa Rican man. We are here as your brothers, giving our Costa Rican brothers what little we have. We are here to give the necessary training for a society that believes in God, that wants peace and that wants to be free.

Graduates: You are 178 men who honor Costa Rica. This is a historic moment. Always keep this phrase in your hearts, with dignity: Peace and work in a free Costa Rica. Thank you.

FINANCE MINISTER COMMENTS ON FOREIGN DEBT POLICY

PA101934 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 7 Dec 82 p 1-A

[Excerpts] The Costa Rican Government will continue its position of not making commitments that it cannot keep to the executive committee of creditor banks. Finance Minister Federico Vargas Peralta has announced that on Monday he will meet again with representatives of these banks in New York.

The country's policy is to pay the interest on its foreign debt up to a total of $470 million and to all its creditors. Therefore, the government will turn down the request by 150 banks that want $600 million paid to them alone in 1983.

Vargas Peralta considers President Ronald Reagan's offer to help renegotiate the country's foreign debt very encouraging. He has expressed his opinion that a word from the U.S. President will bear some weight with the commercial banks.

The Proposal

After estimating export revenues and cash flow, the national foreign debt negotiating commission decided that the maximum interest that could be paid next year is $470 million. This amount will be distributed among business organizations, friendly governments, development agencies and the holders of bonds and dam certificates.

Costa Rica's proposal also stipulates that the entire debt principal must be rescheduled because there is definitely no way to pay it. The proposal also suggests that the foreign banks might contribute their resources to finance some of the imports of essential products. This way, foreign currency would be released, which could then be used to pay the interest that was due in 1981 and 1982.

According to the minister, President Reagan's offer may have something to do with the U.S. Government's understanding of the effort currently underway here to organize the public finances, and may suggest that the Americans have realized that the amount offered is not arbitrarily determined but dictated by real circumstances.

CORRECTION TO MINISTERS COMMENT ON TALKS

The following correction pertains to the item entitled "Finance, Security Ministers on Talks," published in the 6 December Latin America DAILY REPORT, page P 9, third paragraph, line four:

... its $1.6 billion debt." (changing word "million" to "billion" and adding quotation marks)

EL SALVADOR

MORE SAN SEBASTIAN KIDNAP VICTIMS ESCAPE

PA140048 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2101 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 13 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- A total of 74 Salvadorans escaped from the guerrillas in the past 24 hours after being held captive for 8 days, according to official sources today.

They were among a group of some 200 persons kidnapped by guerrilla groups Sunday, 5 December, as they watched a soccer game in a San Sebastian stadium, in San Vicente Department, 30 km east of San Salvador.

The official sources in San Sebastian told ACAN-EFE today that, including the 74 persons who escaped in the last few hours, the total kidnap victims who are now back home is 116. The same sources added that according to figures from the San Sebastian mayor's office, only 8 persons remain in the hands of the guerrillas.

The released group, now back with their families in San Sebastian, said they were well treated during their time with the rebels and were fed tortillas with beans and rice.

Last week the FMLN radio station said that what happened in San Sebastian was not a real kidnapping, but a voluntary act.

Meanwhile, the Armed Forces Press Committee (Coprefa) reported guerrilla activities at various points in the country, particularly on the main northern highway, where three rebels were killed. The report added that this action took place at El Trapichon farm during a rebel attack on the farm's watchmen.

One guerrilla was killed and another wounded when they opened fire from a motorcycle on police reserves along the highway between San Salvador and Santa Ana, according to military sources.

The sources added that during the leftist attack on the town of Las Palmas, Chalatenango Department, one rebel was killed. In the same department, another group of guerrillas attacked a Supply Regulating Institute warehouse, taking with them three tons of foodstuffs.

Other rebel groups attacked the Zamoran farm in Usulutan Department. They destroyed a truck and two trailers and seized 205 sacks of beans, according to Coprefa.

FMLN GENERAL COMMAND MEMBER GRANTS INTERVIEW

AU101325 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 6 Dec 82 pp 1, 6

[Interview with Roberto Roca, member of the FMLN general command and secretary general of the Revolutionary Party of Central American Working People, by "RABOTNICHESKO DELO correspondent" -- in "one of the liberated areas of El Salvador, November"]

[Text] The struggle of the people in El Salvador against the military dictatorship and the U.S. intervention continues to develop with success, despite the merciless repressive measures and constant military FMLN control.

The intensification of the revolutionary struggle of the people's masses and the unsuccessful attempt of the military dictatorship to destroy the partisan movement are leading toward an aggravation and intensification of the contradictions existing within and among the bourgeois parties.

These questions were discussed during an interview with Commander Roberto Roca, one of the five members of the FMLN general command and secretary general of the Revolutionary Party of Central American Working People by a representative of our daily.

Question: Commander Roca, how would you describe the contradictions existing among the bourgeois parties in El Salvador today?

Answer: Under the circumstances of a successfully developing people's revolution, the Magana government is not able to work out and implement any consensus whatever for overcoming the crisis in El Salvador. The ultra-rightwing forces and the fascist groups within the army are persisting in their efforts to eliminate the Christian Democratic Party from the government, while the Christian Democrats are trying to revive the weak process of reforms. All this is clashing against the efforts of American imperialism to preserve the counterrevolutionary and anti-people's character of the regime in El Salvador, but to modernize its socioeconomic aspects.

The contradictions among the bourgeois parties are intensifying from day to day. This particular atmosphere must be taken advantage of from a political and military point of view by the revolutionary forces in El Salvador.

Question: How can you describe the state of the FMLN from the military point of view?

Answer: Throughout 2 years of overt military actions, the front has accumulated great experience and has achieved considerable success in improving the operational effectiveness of its armed forces.

In 1981 the partisan troops not only accumulated experience in armed combat, but also made great efforts to consolidate the liberated areas. The enemy's attempts to liquidate the areas under people's control did not succeed.

In 1982 the FMLN proved its increased capability of concentrating and expanding its armed forces to such an extent that the enemy was unable to impede our operations aimed at the conquest of several villages, including the city of Usulutan, the most important coastal center in our country. The partisans controlled Usulutan for 5 days, after which they withdrew on their own decision, without suffering any losses. In 1982 the enemy was the main source for our weapons and other supplies. The FMLN demonstrated in practice how groundless the statements of the imperialists are to the effect that the partisan movement allegedly exists thanks to assistance from abroad.

Question: How are the people of El Salvador participanting in the various forms of the struggle against dictatorship?

Answer: I would like to stress, above all, the intensification of the direct participation of the people's masses in armed struggle and more particularly in the areas under partisan control. People in these areas are also participating in the production of foodstuffs and in building fortifications for our defense, as well as in observing enemy movements. They are performing propaganda tasks among those who are not organized, thanks to which the areas under partisan control are constantly expanding.

We must also point out the wide participation of the masses in underground resistance in the cities, which is expressed in combat actions, sabotage and political activities, as well as in collecting foodstuffs, clothing and medicines for the partisans. Without the heroic efforts of the people's masses the supply and existence of the partisan movement is unthinkable. This movement is already deeply rooted among the people and represents an integral part of them.

Question: How can you describe the intervention of the United States in El Salvador and the role of American military aid to the Alvaro Magana government?

Answer: The intervention in El Salvador is being carried out within the framework of the global strategy of American imperialism aimed at restoring the positions the United States achieved immediately following World War II. On regional scales this intervention is aimed at stopping the development of the revolutionary process in Central America and at preventing a new revolutionary government from coming to power in that area, as well as at defeating the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua. This aspect of the American intervention in El Salvador and in Central America is of vital importance for the counterrevolutionary activities of imperialism and the corrupt bourgeios connected with it.

This intervention will expand along with the development and intensification of the revolutionary process in the area. The United States is trying to achieve "appeasement" through the defeat of the partisan movement and in this context we must evaluate the role and importance of the steadily growing American military aid to the Alvaro Magana puppet government -- the sending of military advisers, mass training of Salvadoran soldiers and officers in the United States, organization of "psychological war" against revolutionary forces and deliveries of arms and military technical equipment.

Question: Reports on Salvadoran soldiers who have deserted have recently appeared in the press, as well as reports about their joining partisan detachments. What can you say about the morale and militant spirit in the army? What about the contradictions existing within the army?

Answer: As a matter of fact, there have recently been 12 cases of soldiers caught as prisoners, who had joined the partisan ranks, while 40 of them were delivered to the International Red Cross. Such cases have increased recently. In this connection it is worth noting that the militant spirit and morale of the army are constantly deteriorating. Proof of this are the drastic repressive measures, including mass shooting of soldiers, for the purpose of stopping desertion and preventing the soldiers from surrendering to the partisans. The low morale of the enemy is demonstrated by the inability of the army to prolong any actions at all against our positions for more than 10 days, despite the fact that about 5,000 officers and soldiers sometimes participate in such operations. Even the slightest defeat in combat throws the enemies into panic and forces them to withdraw or to split their forces. All this even more intensifies the demoralization and the internal contradictions within the army.

Today, there are three recognizable groups within the Army of El Salvador. The first group is that of the high-ranking fascist military command which demonstrates every day that it is incapable of conducting successful military operations within the army. The second group consists of rightwing reactionary officers who are convinced that the failures of the army are due to the fact that the high military command finds the existing situation in El Salvador favorable for a rapid accumulation of personal wealth. They insist that the leadership be replaced and that it include officers who participate directly in combat against the partisans. There is constantly growing distrust and mutual persecution between these two groups. The third group, which acts with greater restraint but whose influence is constantly growing, is composed of officers who realize that the army is losing the war against the FMLN, and on this basis are becoming aware of the necessity of negotiating in order to preserve the army as an institution. A considerable number of these officers are beginning to understand that the partisan movement cannot be defeated, because it is waging a just struggle and that the causes of the war in El Salvador originate from the existing socioeconomic structure in the country. Those officers are increasingly aware of the fact that the army in El Salvador has become an instrument of defense for the interests of the oligarchy and the ruling circles.

The FMLN leadership has publicly declared on several occasions its readiness to negotiate and establish understanding with the aforementioned third group of officers. It has stressed the necessity that these officers act with greater courage within the army and be more active in order to win over to their side the majority of the soldiers and officers, to eliminate the present military upper crust and those officers who are closely connected with the oligarchy and with imperialism.

GUATEMALA

BANK PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT TO RESIGN

PA132013 Guatemala City Radio Mundial Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Jorge Gonzalez Delvalle, president of the Bank of Guatemala, has announced he will also resign on 15 December to leave President Rios Montt free to choose his collaborators for next year. He added that President Rios Montt asked him for his resignation. Therefore, he said, both I and (Armando Gonzalez), the bank's vice president, will deliver our resignations to the president.

As is already known, the ministers and deputy ministers and the secretaries and under secretaries of the Presidency of the republic will also resign. It is understood that the president of the supreme court and the judicial branch and other top government officials will resign as well.

COURTS RELEASE MLN LEADER, ARMY CAPTAIN

PA131615 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 8 Dec 82 p 6

[Excerpt] Arnoldo Lopez Straub, a 34-year-old leader of the National Liberation Movement, MLN, who was turned over to the special courts on the charge of undertaking political activities against the government, has been released after being declared innocent. He had been imprisoned 53 days.

Army Capt Carlos Alberto Corzantes, chief of security for former presidential candidate Mario Sandoval Alarcon, has also been released after having been arrested on the same charge. It was reported that the two men were freed after government investigations found nothing against them.

INCREASE IN URBAN TRANSPORTATION FARES REPORTED

PA100415 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Newsman Gonzalo Asturias Montenegro, secretary of public relations of the Presidency, today reported that the increase in urban transportation fares in the capital is justified for several reasons. He said this increase will become effective on 16 December, and that the 13-million [currency not specified] subsidy that transportation owners had been receiving will be used to solve the problems of the peasant population affected by subversion in the country's high plateaus.

HONDURAS

HAVANA SAYS ISRAEL TO SEND WAR MATERIEL, ADVISERS

PA140454 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] According to an agreement made during the recent visit to Tegucigalpa by Zionist Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, Israel will supply Honduras with Kfir supersonice fighters, a version of the French Mirage, as well as other military equipment. Israel will also train Honduran pilots.

The Israeli newspaper YEDI'OT AHARONOT, published in Tel Aviv, recently revealed that the Honduran regime and the Israeli defense minister also signed a broad security agreement in which Israeli military men will advise their Honduran colleagues in techniques of urban and rural repression.

Government Denies Reports

PA141306 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Declaration issued by the office of the director of international news -- no date given -- read by announcer]

[Text] With regard to an ASSOCIATED PRESS report that Israel and Honduras reached an arms supply agreement supposedly signed by Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon during his recent visit to Tegucigalpa, the government of the republic declared:

1. It is absolutely false that Sharon signed any arms supplies pact with Honduras;

2. It is also false that the State of Israel is about to give defensive equipment to our country;

3. The talks with the distinguished guest were limited to future technical and economic cooperation agreements that will be discussed in detail with a commission that will visit Honduras in the near future;

4. Honduras is not interested in participating in any arms race but in strengthening its economic development so that the fruits of democracy, made evident in the form of social progress, may benefit all our people;

5. We regret that a news agency noted for its seriousness has so tactlessly distributed a fantastic and speculative story that misguides the people of the world and weakens the peace efforts that Honduras is promoting in the Caribbean and Central America.

MISURASATA ON CONDITIONS FOR RETURN TO NICARAGUA

PA140250 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 13 Dec 82 p 21

[Text] The Nicaraguan Miskitos who have taken refuge in Honduras are willing to return to their country if the Sandinist government offers free elections in 1983, releases the captive and missing Miskitos and rebuilds the houses that have been destroyed.

Steadman Fagoth, leader of the Nicaraguan Miskitos, said that the Misurasata [Miskito Sumu Rama Sandinist Unity Organization] considers that elections in 1985 as announced by the Nicaraguan Government "are much too late."

"The elections must be held next year and the participation of all Nicaragua's political sectors must be guaranteed," he noted.

He added that in addition to free elections in 1983 his organization demands freedom for 200 captive and 400 missing Miskitos. "The Sandinist front must respond to the national and internatinal community and provide information about those missing on the Atlantic coast. This must be done before elections," Fagoth demanded.

He also demands the reconstruction of some 4,000 houses owned by the Miskitos and destroyed by members of the Sandinist army.

Fagoth also denied the Misurasata organization has commitments with other organizations opposed to the Sandinist regime.

He added that the organization is struggling alone for the return of democracy to Nicaragua. "We have no alliances or agreements with anyone. In the event we should decided to join forces with anyone else, we would first have to consult our community rank and file. We would then have to issue a communique with the agreement of the council of elders. So far, however, there has been no move in that direction; we continue struggling alone," he said in conclusion.

SECRETARIAT ANNOUNCES DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS

PA101730 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Dec 82

[Communique issued by the Public Relations Office of the secretary of state for foreign affairs in Tegucigalpa on 9 December -- read by announcer]

[Text] The office of the secretary of state for foreign affairs hereby announces that the following appointments have been made with the approval of the constitutional president of the republic. These appointments will take effect 1 January 1983.

1. Roberto Martinez Ordonez, ambassador and permament representative to the OAS with headquarters in Washington.

2. Dr Anibal Villatoro, extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador to Venezuela.

3. (Napolean Alvarez Alvarado), representative with the rank of ambassador to UNESCO, with headquarters in Paris. (Alvarez Alvarado) will also have diplomatic functions at the Honduran Embassy in France.

4. (Alejandro Ruiz Mendoza), director of diplomatic protocol, office of the secretary of state for foreign affairs.

5. Mrs (Nadina Lefebre), deputy director of diplomatic protocol, office of the secretary of state for foreign affairs.

6. (Juan Alberto Lara Bueso), director of the Treaties and Legal Department, office of the secretary of state for foreign affairs.

Regarding the Honduran diplomatic missions that do not have an ambassador at the moment, the Honduran Government, through the office of the secretary of state for foreign affairs, will request the corresponding placets.

NICARAGUA

DEFENSE MINISTRY ON ACTION NEAR HONDURAN BORDER

PA140419 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Communique issued by the Defense Ministry foreign and public relations section in Managua on 13 December -- read by (Abel Calero)]

[Text] As of 8 December Somozist counterrevolutionaries coming from Honduran territory and numbering no less than 400 increased their armed activity in the border sector of Cerro Nubarrones and Cerro de Jesus, located northwest of Jalapa. They intended to occupy those townships located 7 km from the border.

From 8 December through today, 13 December, troops of the Sandinist Peoples Army [EPS] have engaged in fierce combat to evict the Somozist bands. The counterrevolutionaries' forward command post was seized at the border on Nicaraguan territory and their units were dispersed. They fled toward Honduras, from whence they have continued harassment actions against our territory and are reorganizing their forces in an effort to continue their incursions into national territory with impunity from Honduran territory.

As a result of the EPS military operations in that sector leading to today's flight of the enemy into Honduran territory, 7 members of our EPS fell heroically and 11 soldiers were wounded. Among today's actions by our troops, we must mention the distinction of a soldier who, in the midst of the fighting, carried a light cannon up a jagged hill on his shoulders to place it in a better position to attack the enemy.

In the military operations noted above which were carried out to repel the enemy incursions from Honduras, the counterrevolutionary Somozist bands sustained 27 casualties, including 13 dead. Various weapons were seized from them such as 60-mm mortars, rocket launchers, Fal rifles, M-1 carbines, handgrenades and ammunition. At the previously mentioned command post of this counterrevolutionary detachment our troops also seized various explosives, uniforms, buckshot and 20 pack animals used to supply themselves from Honduras.

At 2130 today, 13 December, in the La Pita Valley area 8 km north of Murra in Nueva Segovia Department, EPS troops engaged Somozist counterrevolutionary contingents coming from Honduras. The counterrevolutionaries were moving in the direction of Jalapa to coordinate their actions with the forces dispersed from the previously mentioned areas. A report on the results of these latest skirmishes is forthcoming.

DEPUTY MINISTER:· INVASION OF COUNTRY POSTPONED

PA101608 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Deputy Foreign Minister Nora Astorga has said that the invasion of Nicaragua has been postponed for the moment but that our country is the object of small invasions from Honduras.

The invasion that was planned for December will be staged from across the Honduran border very soon, Astorga said. She stressed that this year Nicaragua has sent 59 notes protesting aggressions by Somozist detachments based in Honduras. These attacks have resulted in the deaths of many Nicaraguans.

Astorga said the Honduran Government has not responded to the Nicaraguan notes despite the fact that our country's charges are based on specific cases.

Astorga expressed the concern of our revolutionary government over the visit of Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon to Tegucigalpa. She stressed that although what kind of weapons Tel Aviv will supply to Honduras is unknown, Sharon's presence in Central America will reinforce the arms buildup in the area.

She also announced that more than 30 foreign ministers and 70 special delegations will attend the meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Nonaligned Movement to be held in Managua from 10 to 14 January.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNOUNCES LAW OF SEA ABSTENTION

PA100448 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0055 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] Managua, 9 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Nicaragua will abstain from signing the Law of the Sea [LOS] Convention that will be signed by 117 countries tomorrow in Montego Bay, Jamaica, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry announced today.

"Portions of the convention are very delicate and difficult to accept by Nicaragua, inasmuch as they could affect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation," the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry states.

In general terms, Nicaragua considers highly positive the agreements reached over many years through prolonged and careful negotiations, which sought to reconcile interests that many times were at odds.

The Foreign Ministry notes that its country "firmly supports the idea of the ocean depths, seabeds and subsoil being outside the limits of national jurisdiction, and as being a common patrimony of humanity." The Nicaraguan Government also supports the establishment of the authority and mechanisms that will guarantee an equitable distribution of the ocean's wealth for all the nations of the world, in the same manner that it supported most of the agreements on other aspects reached in that convention."

In addition to Nicaragua, Peru and the United States have announced their opposition to the LOS Convention, the former for reasons of sovereignty and the latter for economic reasons. The argument of those opposed to the convention in Peru is that it reduces Peru's territorial sovereignty and is a mortal blow to the idea of the 200-mile territorial sea, of which Peru is the pioneer in the world, together with Chile and Ecuador.

The United States, for its part, has been opposed to having the seabeds be the "patrimony of humanity" and is in favor of their being considered a "free zone" that can be exploited by the countries that have the technology.

GOVERNMENT CENSORS INTERVIEW WITH ENVOY TO U.S.

PA111945 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0124 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Text] Managua, 10 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- Francisco Fiallos Navarro, Nicaraguan ambassador to the United States, told LA PRENSA today that Nicaragua must "urgently" call free elections "to guarantee the democratic principle of alternating power."

In an interview with the local newspaper LA PRENSA, which was not included in today's issue because the government censor did not allow it, Fiallos said Nicaragua "needs substantial improvement, even dramatic change, a change of course in the conducting of the revolutionary process."

In the interview, which LA PRENSA supplied to ACAN-EFE, Fiallos Navarro says that relations between Nicaragua and the United States are strained, and "with few probabilities of improving in the near future."

Fiallos advocates strengthening "ties that unite us with Latin American countries, especially our neighbors," in order to improve U.S.-Nicaraguan relations, because "it is easier to reach understandings with countries in our area than with the current U.S. Administration."

He added, "We should also intensify our relations with Western Europe. I believe there are good possibilities now that there are four social democratic countries in that part of the world: France, Greece, Sweden and Spain."

Fiallos said the current U.S. Administration is pushing Nicaragua's neighbors into a confrontation with Nicaragua. Fiallos said, "This is part of a master plan that can only be defeated if it's countered with another master plan in which our country's domestic conditions will play the main role. If there are domestic divisions and confrontations, it will be very hard to overcome difficulties in the international sphere."

He said he advocates lifting "now" the national emergency law in force since March, as well as the government rules on censorship. Fiallos said, "I believe that unrestricted freedom of the press is a sine qua non for the exercise of a true and authentic democracy."

In response to a question from LA PRENSA, Fiallos commented on relations between the Catholic Church and the Sandinist Government. He said, "Nicaraguans are deeply religious. The stiff-jointed Marxist-Leninist ideologists, not to mention the Stalinists, fail to understand this. They are outdated in modern Marxist thinking."

He also said that Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo, archbishop of Managua, "is one of the most valuable, and undoubtedly, one of the most respected men in Nicaragua."

STATE SECURITY REPORTEDLY ARRESTS 23 FDN MEMBERS

PA130208 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Members of the General Directorate of State Security of Nicaragua arrested 23 people charged with plotting to sabotage national economic targets. The prisoners, all members of the self-styled Nicaraguan Democratic Front [FDN], planned to dynamite installations of the San Antonio sugar mill, which handles over 50 percent of the sugar processed in the country.

According to the official report, the prisoners included (Bernardo Moncada), chief of the counterrevolutionary forces that operate over a large area and are based at the camp of former Somozist guardsman located in the Honduran town of Cacamuya.

BRAZIL TO ASSIST IN COMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT

PA101637 Managua Radio Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Dec 82

[Text] Upon his arrival from Brazil, Marne Serrano, deputy minister of the Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute [Telcor], reported that Nicaragua will buy equipment at lower prices through a credit line. In addition, the country will get Brazilian technical advice on telecommunications.

Serrano was accompanied by Jose Maria Alvarado, Telcor's deputy minister for administrative affairs. They went to Brazil in response to an invitation from the president of Brazilian Telecommunications, Inc. The president of this important company expressed his desire to help in developing Nicaraguan telecommunications.

During their trip, the two officials contacted the Brazilian Government as well as manufacturers of telecommunications equipment. They also accepted offers for technical advice. Our engineers will go to Brazil to study in this area or Brazilian experts will come to Nicaragua to teach Nicaraguan technicians.

GOVERNMENT INCREASES GASOLINE, DIESEL OIL PRICES

PA121828 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1712 GMT 12 Dec 82

[Text] Managua, 11 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The Government of National Reconstruction announced an increase of 6.55 cordobas ($0.65) per gallon in the price of premium gasoline and of 6.25 cordobas ($0.62) per gallon in the price of regular gasoline today. This new increase will bring the price of premium gasoline to 33.75 cordobas ($3.37) a gallon, and of regular gasoline to 31.25 cordobas ($3.12). The ration of 20 gallons of fuel per month for private vehicles remains in effect.

Diesel oil was increased by 3.05 cordobas ($0.30) per gallon, the price now being 17.50 cordobas ($1.75) per gallon.

Fuel prices had not changed in Nicaragua in the last 21 months. The government largely subsidizes city transportation, to maintain fares at 1 cordoba ($0.10).

Juan Carlos Morales, president of the fuel by-product distributors, said that in proportion to their investment, service station owners make very little profit. Therefore, "some of them plan to quit the business."

He said that before the government established the coupon system for buying fuels, national consumption was 4 million barrels a year. Latest reports indicate that there has been a drop of more than 20 percent.

COMMENTARY BLASTS REAGAN, SHARON, LA PRENSA

PA112009 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Station commentary: "Herod's Shadow in Reagan and Sharon's Genocidal Policy Toward Central Amerca"]

[Text] Herod was a genocidal tyrant who ordered the murder of all children 3 years old in Bethlehem because he feared that a child born in that city would oust him from the throne of corruption and oppression he held over the people. Since then Herod has symbolized hatred of infants and children who, on the contrary, represent the hope of humanity, which renews itself with the birth of a child.

It is difficult to find words to describe the monstrous crime, no other words can adequately describe the crime perpetrated by those hyenas and jackals. Nor can other words adequately describe those hyenas and jackals trained and financed by the Reagan administration's obsessive and mad policy against the Sandinist people's revolution.

As Culture Minister Ernesto Cardenal said, this is the result of the visits of Reagan and Sharon to Honduras with the complicity of neighboring countries. This is a good example of the biblical lesson of the old and decrepit King Herod, in the person of these two evil individuals who are trying to prevent Nicaragua and the other Central American countries from producing the new man and resort to the most cowardly and horrendous action; that is, the killing of the innocent.

However, the horror over the sacrifices of the innocent is followed by the indignation and anger which this condemnable act has caused in all those who still have love and compassion in their hearts, a love for children, whom the revolution pampers and Christian gospel favors. Therefore, it is incomprehensible, not to mention indecorous and even repulsive, that the local newspaper LA PRENSA, which prides itself on being so Christian, has not only failed to echo the country's sorrow, limiting itselt to publishing the official communique on the front page as if it were an ordinary obituary, but has also reproached the Nicaraguan Government and people for the threat posed by any Honduran purchase of more Israeli planes. LA PRENSA acts as if there were no connection between these Israeli planes, the visit of General Sharon, expert in genocide and massacre, and the deaths of these children in Nicaragua. All this is done as if a plate had not even been broken; it is done in the style of the pharisees who are experts at evading the law.

This is Lucifer's old tactic of praising the tyrants who spread death and destruction and repudiating the lives of the young and humble. In this case it exposes the known villainy of LA PRENSA.

However, just as killing the innocent did Herod no good, because one cannot stop life or prevent a child from growing and developing, the Reagans and Sharons and their accomplices cannot prevent the revolution from growing and becoming consolidated in the hearts of the Nicaraguan and Central American peoples.

And if, as a humble man in the street who sweats like the god of the poor at a peasant mass, this has been Reagan's advance Christmas present to the children of Nicaragua, then the noble and generous people of Nicaragua will know how to behave under the circumstances. Hate and vengeance are not what our people want; they want love and hope. It is the same love and compassion for those children and all the children of Nicaragua and the world that will push men, women and children to defend this revolution which was carried out to protect and ensure the future of these children.

HARKIN AMENDMENT TERMED 'SIGNIFICANT'

PA111800 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Harkin amendment against the Reagan administration's aggressive policy on Nicaragua was unanimously approved the night of 8 December. The amendment not only represents a setback for the Reagan administration's aggressive policy and consequently a victory for the progressive elements in that country's Congress, but is also a most significant event in the history of U.S.-Nicaraguan bilateral relations.

The amendment is not, as some may think, a perfect solution to the problem, but rather a slight correction in the right direction. We say slight because there is still a long way to go to correct all the harm caused by a dimwitted, nearsighted and aberrant policy on a nation like ours, a nation that started an irreversible advance in dignity and freedom only 3 years ago. Since the start, our revolutionary government has had an open policy of reconciliation and dialogue with our neighbors, particularly with the United States. Nevertheless, our generous initiative of friendship and peace has been brutally and treacherously met with harassment and aggression.

We ask the reason for this unjust, even inhuman and cruel treatment of a people as generous and courageous as the Nicaraguans, who deserve the best for their attitude.

It is humanly inexplicable, although historically inexorable precisely because the U.S. Government has always taken an imperialist attitude toward this small but proud nation which is determined to defend its sovereignty and independence with the courage inherited from the Indo-Spanish blood of Zeledon, Sandino and Carlos Fonseca.

It is significant, however, that the amendment prohibiting the Reagan administration from using funds taken from the U.S. taxpayers to try to overthrow the Nicaraguan Sandinist government is now part of U.S. law. Some sectors will undoubtedly try to undo the amendment one way or another. It is, however, a step in the right direction, as is the difficult but unrenounceable friendly reconciliation of the great family of nations that make up this American continent.

FORMER GUARD, JUNTA BLAMED FOR CRASH DEATHS

PA112015 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Humberto Ortega reported that 75 children died in an aircraft accident. The counterrevolutionary forces of the National Guard has been blamed. The Voice of Sandino is in a position to inform our people that the struggle between the nine-member junta and the National Guard is to blame for this infanticide.

This time an aircraft overloaded with children crashed. Pregnant women and tired old people have died in these transfers. The National Guardsmen [words indistinct] our peasants, have not the slightest respect for the lives of children, the elderly or women. Our people on the northern border are caught in the crossfire between the left and the right, without any hope for pacification to put an end to the ordeal of our peasant brothers and our children.

MISURASATA LEADER CLAIMS CRASH 'IMAGINARY'

PA131435 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Message from Brooklyn Rivera, secretary general of the Miskito, Sumu, Rama, Sandinist Unity Organization, Misurasata, and member of the Revolutionary Directorate of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, to the people of Nicaragua from "somewhere in Central America" -- no date given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Nicaraguan brethren: I am once again enjoying the privilege of coming closer to you, of entering your homes, thanks to the Voice of Sandino, which is the people's radio station. I am going to share with you a few important aspects of the development in our struggle and programs for Nicaragua, our homeland.

When we have the opportunity to speak to our people, we feel the emotion and fervor of this struggle by an entire people against the betrayal, the deceit, and the misrule of the National Directorate's government. We are filled with the fervor of this struggle, which is ours, which belongs to all Nicaraguans without distinction as to color, race, creed or social position. It is the struggle by all Nicaraguans for genuine liberation and for the definitive liberation of the fatherland of Sandino and of all the heroes and martyrs who sacrificed their lives during the recent war of liberation and during this phase of authentic national struggle.

We would like to share with you, our brethren, our country's situation, of which we are all aware.

This situation has been deteriorating day after day, mushrooming into more serious conflicts because of the National Directorate's misrule, incapacity and betrayal -- because of all the repressive and destructive actions against the Nicaraguan people.

This situation has brought us now to generalized repression, to generalized hunger and to the poverty, insecurity and fear that reigns throughout Nicaragua. This policy of misrule by the National Directorate has led the people of Nicaragua to despair, to uneasiness and to the permanent tension that, under various circumstances, causes hundreds of Nicaraguans to die at the hands of the criminals in the north and in other areas of the country. This is the product of the FSLN's irresponsible policy.

These days, under the pretext of alleged aggressive military actions by the counter-revolutionaries in the north, the National Directorate has been carrying out actions that have caused further desperation and suffering among the people and have led to the destruction of towns inhabited by the Indians, the peasants and the workers. For us, the Indians, the month of December has brought tragedy at the hands of the National Directorate's militarymen. We're reminded of December 1981, when after making up a story about an attack known as Red December, the Sandinist front carried out a macabre plan of destruction and genocide against our villages on the upper banks of the Coco River. That December our brothers were persecuted and killed and thousands were forced to seek refuge in Honduras, where there are now more than 13,000 Indians who have been deprived of all humanitarian necessities. Thousands more were forced to seek refuge in the Atlantic coast mountains because of the militarization, represeion and systematic destruction. Thousands were evacuated from their traditional communities, after more than 60 such communities were destroyed and left in ashes: Animals were killed, fruit trees were felled, harvests were destroyed and the traditional Indian area of the Coco River was completely destroyed. These evacuated brothers were transferred as a matter of great urgency to a place hundreds of kilometers away to an area they created called Tasba Pri.

At the Tasba Pri camps our brothers are subject to all kinds of abuse and humiliation in terms of their human and ethnic conditions. For example, the development of traditional communal organizations is prohibited. They are forcing the introduction of so-called Sandinist Defense Committees, the CDS. By this they are trying to exert the greatest control possible over the Indians. They are also trying to alienate our ethnic conscience through the ideological infiltration sponsored by their misgovernment.

In the economic area, they are creating state farms so the Indians can work for the state, thus forcing them to sell their sweat and to surrender their lives to the totalitarian state.

This December brings even greater pain, because once again the Sandinist front is arbitrarily carrying out a policy of systematic destruction of the remnants of the communities that were left in the area of (Los Raudales), in Jinotega, on the banks of the Coco and Bocay Rivers. Their stale pretext is that the counterrevolutionaries are staging harassment activities.

A few days ago, while evacuating the Miskito and Sumu Indians from their communities, they killed 84 innocent Indian children. They claim there were 84, but who knows how many more Indians were riddled with bullets by the militarymen in that zone, where no one guarantees or answers for the Indians' lives? Now they are irresponsibly claiming that these Indians died when the helicopter in which this large number of children were allegedly traveling had an accident.

We think the government has skillfully concocted this story to extricate itself from the situation created by its genocidal policy toward our communities. We think that those children were indiscriminately killed in more dramatic circumstances, on land and not in the air, nor in an accident or in any other imaginary situation, regardless of what the government wants to make us believe. Now they are irresponsibly announcing an investigation into this alleged accident. They can't deceive the people, however. The people know that the ones who are really responsible for these dead children are the members of the National Directorate themselves.

They order the Indians killed and then say that they died by themselves. They order the Indians massacred and then claim that the counterrevolutionaries killed them. Now, after this accident, they are irresponsibly suggesting that there have been counter-revolutionary attacks, in an effort to manipulate our people's very tragic situation.

They are trying to make propaganda out of this; they are trying to sell the image of their revolution by claiming that this is the result of counterrevolutionary activities, of Reagan's foreign policy and of all of the other existing situations, with which the people are familiar and which we cannot deny: the presence of the (?Somozist) guardsmen in Honduras, the aggressive policy (?that imperialism has unleashed), the National Directorate's irresponsible and treacherous rule in this country.

We, the Indian leaders and the revolutionary alliance, directly accuse the nine so-called commanders of the Sandinist front of committing this crime against our Indians, our peasants and all of our Nicaraguan brothers. (?We denounce) to the world that this crime was committed by the traitors of the National Directorate.

The only solution left to the people [words indistinct] lies with the various Nicaraguan sectors, all of the patriotic and revolutionary sectors, all sectors of the Nicaraguan people: the members of the militias, the Sandinist People's Army, the mass organizations, the democratic parties and the Sandinist front itself. They must face this treason. We, the members of the organizations that comprise ARDE, are constantly (?waging) this struggle.

We urge all of our Nicaraguan brothers to join the ranks of this alliance, which belongs to the Nicaraguan people. We urge them to join this alliance, which offers the just alternative for achieving our people's aspirations.

Let us say no to the National Directorate, no to the former Somozist guardsmen, no to totalitarianism, no to treason, no to deception, no to a return. Let's say yes; let's take a step toward the struggle led by ARDE, which is the Nicaraguan people's only alternative. This alliance includes Nicaragua's best children, those who love this homeland and are willing to defend it and to shed their blood in order to see a truly free homeland, where all of us can soon hold hands after our homeland obtains its victory.

While still subject to the current situation, which is marked by deceit and destruction, let us all be ready -- the young, the old, the children, the Indians, the peasants, the workers and the students -- to carry our rifles and to act with combative courage in confronting the Sandinist front traitors.

Free fatherland or death.

REBELS SAY SANDINISTS FAKED ATTACK IN CARDENAS

PA112234 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Text] Costa Rica -- Confidential reports from the Costa Rican department of intelligence and security have confirmed that it is impossible to discard the possibility that the Sandinist army itself staged the 2 December attack on Cardenas. In this respect Security Minister Luis Edmundo Solano said that the report he had received in his office that day did not note that anyone had crossed the border either entering or leaving the country. Nevertheless, he emphasized that Costa Rica will not tolerate anyone using Costa Rica to carry out attacks and denied that they had been provided protection when they returned. [sentence as heard]

On 2 December Nicaragua announced that an anti-Sandinist command with the support of one plane had attacked the military post in Cardenas from Costa Rica. The Costa Rican Foreign Ministry rejected the charge.

Officials from the intelligence and security department said that this incident could have been staged by Sandinists in an effort to discredit Costa Rica.

BRIEFS

DONATION FROM DENMARK -- Representatives of the Danish and Nicaraguan Governments signed an agreement yesterday whereby Denmark will donate $3.7 million, which will be used for the installation of water facilities in Jinotega and Matagalpa, medical supplies, improvement of the laboratory at the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua and the development of special seed repositories. The document was signed by a Danish Foreign Affairs Ministry official and by Edmundo Jarguin, director of the International Reconstruction Fund of Nicaragua. [Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Dec 82 PA]

CASTRO MESSAGE DELIVERED TO CAPE VERDE PRESIDENT

FL131615 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Juan Almeida Bosque, Cuban vice president of the Council of State, has delivered to Cape Verdian President Aristides Pereira a personal message from Fidel Castro during a meeting in Praia. President Pereira also conveyed warm greetings to Commander in Chief Fidel Castro during the meeting with Almeida, with whom he discussed the current international situation, particularly preparations for the forthcoming seventh meeting of the Nonaligned Movement to be held in New Delhi next March.

The Cuban delegation headed by Juan Almeida visited several agricultural development centers in Cape Verde, a country which has been suffering from a serious drought for several years. In the evening, Almeida and his delegation were guests of honor during an official dinner hosted by (Camilio Duarte), president of Cape Verde's National Popular Assembly, Foreign Affairs Minister Silvino da Luz and the ministers of interior, economy and finance, and defense, who are all members of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde.

BENAVIDES MEETS WITH SOVIET COUNTERPART IN MOSCOW

FL100240 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] Joaquin Benavides, minister president of Cuba's State Committee for Labor and Social Security, met today in Moscow with Vladimir Lomonosov, chairman of the Soviet Union's State Committee for Labor and Social Problems. During the meeting they discussed cooperation between the two organizations. Also present at the meeting were Luis Felipe Vazquez, minister-counselor of the Cuban Embassy in the Soviet Union, and other Soviet and Cuban officials.

SOVIET-BUILT MERCHANT SHIP ARRIVES IN HAVANA

FL131450 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1225 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] The new Cuban 14,900-ton merchant ship "Ruben Martinez Villena" has arrived in the port of Havana to join our merchant fleet. The "Ruben Martinez Villena" was specially built in the Soviet shipyard of (Herson) in Ukrainia. This ship has the capability of navigating 16 hours without duty personnel in the engine room.

The ship made its first successful ocean voyage after leaving the (Herson) shipyard for Bulgaria, Italy and Spain where it loaded merchandise for Cuba. The "Ruben Martinez Villena" is the fifth ship of its kind for the transportation of cargo in containers.

STANISLAV SVOBODA RETURNS TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

FL131405 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1225 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Stanislav Svoboda, deputy foreign minister of the CSSR, has returned to his country after an official visit to Cuba. During his visit, Svoboda met with government and Foreign Ministry officials and made visits to interesting sites. Svoboda was decorated with the Friendship Medal by Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca in accordance with a decision by the Council of State.

CASTRO SENDS CONDOLENCE MESSAGE TO FSLN

PA132226 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba, has sent a message to the FSLN National Directorate in which he states that the blood shed by 75 Nicaraguan children who died in a helicopter crash shows the infamy of the imperialist U.S. Government.

Castro noted that Washington directs, organizes and finances the entire criminal plan launched in an attempt to destroy the Sandinist revolution. He stressed that these children's blood leaves an indelible stain on the regimes of Honduras and other countries that are vile accomplices of the siege that the heroic and determined Nicaraguan people are enduring today. Today, more than ever, I am sure that this sorrow will be transformed into energy, courage and determination to defend the just and dignified Nicaraguan cause at all costs.

In his message, Fidel Castro asks the Sandinist leaders to convey his condolences and deep feelings of solidarity to the relatives of the victims and to all the Nicaraguan people.

BARRICADA and EL NUEVO DIARIO published Castro's message on their front pages today.

Last Thursday, 75 Nicaraguan children and 9 Nicaraguan mothers died in a helicopter crash while they were being evacuated from regions bordering on Honduras where counter-revolutionary bands constantly carry out harassment operations.

BANGLADESH PRESIDENT MEETS WITH NEW AMBASSADOR

FL110245 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Text] The Government of Bangladesh has expressed its desire to expand relations with our country and to have the two nations continue to work together to strengthen and unite the Nonaligned Movement, it was reported in Dacca, the capital of that country. Those feelings were expressed by Bangladesh President Lt Gen Husain Mohammad Ershad at a meeting held in Dacca with the new Cuban ambassador, Jose Perez Novoa, who yesterday presented his credentials to the government.

During the meeting, the Bangladesh president referred to Cuba's prestige among the nonaligned nations and expressed his respect, conveying a greeting to the top Cuban leader and current chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, Fidel Castro. President Ershad thanked Cuba for its support for his country's independence and for its solidary support in international forums.

MINISTER DISCUSSES RATIFICATION OF LOS TREATY

FL101323 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] Cuba is confident that sooner or later the developed countries -- which today disparage the law of the sea treaty -- will join the overwhelming majority of the international community and ratify it. This statement was made by Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Pelegrin Torras during a press conference in Montego Bay, Jamaica, the site for the UN meeting that examined the subject.

The Cuban leader noted that the already guaranteed ratification by more than 100 countries on the eve of the final ceremony will prompt UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to convoke the creation of the preparatory committee and the international tribunal on the law of the sea prior to next March.

Finally, Torras indicated that Cuba supports the Convention of the Law of the Sea in solidarity with countries of the Third World, which have been waging a protracted struggle for the delimitation of territorial waters and, in addition, because the treaty represents an important instrument in maintaining world peace.

COMMENTARY PRAISES EFFORTS OF COLOMBIA'S BETANCUR

PA122151 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Dec 82

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The replacement of an unpopular and bankrupt government by one which has given hope to millions of Colombians is the balance which 1982 leaves for Colombia. In the mid-1982 general elections, the Liberal Party failed to retain power for the third consecutive time with the candidacy of former president Alfonso Lopez Michelsen. The presidential seat was occupied by Belisario Betancur. As soon as Betancur took office, he began to fulfill one of his main campaign promises: the pacification of his country.

In the first 100 days of his term, Betancur promulgated an amnesty law for all rebels. The law benefits some 6,000 insurgents and hundreds of political prisoners. The legislation has been supported by the country's two main guerrilla organizations: the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and the 19 April Movement. However, these rebel groups demand complementary measures before they will definitely accept the amnesty. These measures include the suspension of military mobilizations in the so-called zones of operation and the dismantling of the Death to Kidnappers [MAS] band, tolerated by the previous government. The MAS has killed some 60 democratic Colombian fighters in a year. The guerrilla organizations are also demanding the implementation of a plan for economic recovery that includes creating new jobs, reducing the inflation rate and the cost of living and upgrading social welfare programs. Belisario Betancur's government has also allocated funds for the recovery of the areas affected by the war and has sent Otto Morales, president of the Colombian Peace Commission, to discuss his proposals with the guerrilla leaders.

Furthermore, Colombian foreign policy also underwent a significant change with Betancur's administration. In this regard, Colombia modified its policy on Central America and on the Anglo-Argentine conflict over the Malvinas Islands. Betancur proposed a meeting of Latin American chiefs of states without exclusions; he announced his interest in joining the Nonaligned Movement as a full member.

Belisario Betancur reaffirmed this independent position in the international sphere during the recent visit of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, from whom Betancur demanded a more just and equitable policy toward Latin America. In his talks with Reagan, Betancur recommended the elimination of exclusions in the inter-American system, criticized Washington's effort to isolate Nicaragua and voiced his disagreement with the U.S. Government's protectionist measures on foreign trade, measures which are particularly harmful to the exporting countries of the area. The Colombian chief executive also scored U.S. policy in Central America, Washington's bid to limit aid possibilities to the developing nations and the U.S. Government support for Great Britain in the Malvinas conflict.

On the economic front, the new Colombian Government faces the consequences of the disastrous policy of its predecessor, which raised Colombia's foreign debt to over $1,325,000,000 and provoked a crisis in nearly all mechanisms for financial recovery.

The efforts made thus far by Belisario Betancur to fulfill his campaign platform have raised the Colombians' hope as they wait for the new year, which could bring a period of important changes for the country, changes long demanded by the people.

NEW MEXICAN PRESIDENT'S IDEALS, POLICIES PRAISED

PA102016 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 9 Dec 82

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] In his speech on 1 December when he took office as the new Mexican president, Miguel de la Madrid clearly outlined the 10 basic points of his government plan. These 10 basic principles refer almost exclusively to the economic and financial sector. The reduction of public expenses heads the list. This means that the austerity policy advocated during his entire electoral campaign and reaffirmed during the inaugural ceremony is the keynote of his government program, which is intended to bring about national recovery and to improve the Mexican people's standard of living.

As a result of this austerity policy, which was first implemented this year by De la Madrid's predecessor, Jose Lopez Portillo, Mexico registered a $3.5 billion trade balance surplus for the first time in its history.

According to the figures released by the Mexican Foreign Trade Institute, as of September this year, imports had been reduced by over $5 billion as compared with the same period in 1981. The institute also reported that during the same period the country's export revenues amounted to almost $15 billion. This information reflects the results of decisions made in an effort to prevent even greater chaos and is an encouraging sign in Mexico's currently difficult situation, the most serious in all its history.

It is a known fact that the financial pressures on Mexico originate in the international market, and are the result of declining oil prices and the high policy of interest rates established by the United States. This situation was made worse by a constant drain of capital, which became catastrophic for the country.

In response to these pressures, President Lopéz Portillo established exchange controls and decreed the nationalization of private banks, which he blamed for the drain of capital. If these measures had not been taken, Mexico would have had to declare itself unable to pay its huge foreign debt. This would have curbed production and as a result, factories would have closed and workers would have been laid off en masse. In other words, the country would have declared itself bankrupt virtually on the threshold of a new administration.

According to recent reports, President de la Madrid has been taking steps to completely reorganize the public sector and to create a national comptroller general's office. As a result of this decision, nine Mexican ministries will be reorganized in accordance with the economic measures intended to solve the country's crisis. The hard struggle that lies ahead of President de la Madrid entails not only the fight against administrative corruption but also the commitment to continue to implement an independent foreign policy characterized by solidarity with those who are struggling for their self-determination. Everything seems to indicate that De la Madrid plans to continue Mexico's honorable legacy as an example of solidarity with all peoples. It also seems that he will carry out a real mission of economic and social recovery on the domestic front.

In his first speech, De la Madrid talked about motivating others to undergo moral renovation through the government's example, beginning with his own. Even as his words still echo in the National Congress' legislative chamber, De la Madrid has begun fulfilling his government program.

BENAVIDES IN MOZAMBIQUE FOR JOINT COMMITTEE TALKS

FL111721 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1506 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Text] Maputo -- Cuban Labor and Social Security Minister Joaquin Benavides has arrived in the capital of Mozambique to participate in the working sessions of the joint committee of cooperation between the two countries.

GOVERNMENT SIGNS PROTOCOLS WITH USSR, GDR, CSSR

Agricultural Work With Soviets

FL100230 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] Cuban and Soviet representatives have signed a work protocol during the 57th meeting of the CEMA Permanent Commission for Agriculture. The protocol expands the existing agricultural sector cooperation between the two countries. The work protocol was signed by Boris Runov, Soviet vice minister of agriculture, and his Cuban counterpart, Miguel Rodriguez Mayea. Also attending the protocol signing was Arnaldo Milian Castro, member of the party Central Committee Politburo and minister of agriculture, along with members of guest delegations. This protocol will expand assistance by Soviet specialists in various agricultural tasks as one more example of proletarian internationalism.

Agricultural Cooperation With GDR

FL110300 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Text] A scientific-technical agreement was signed minutes ago between the Cuban Agriculture Ministry and the GDR Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Foodstuffs. Adolfo Diaz, Cuba's first vice minister of agriculture, and Erwin Neu, GDR deputy minister of agriculture, signed the agreement at the Palace of Conventions. The main points of the agreement concern the cultivation of potatoes, citrus and other fruits, as well as agricultural mechanization, veterinary services and aspects of scientific-technical organization in the sector. The two officials praised the role which the cooperation protocol will play in the development of Cuban agriculture.

Nuclear Energy Use With CSSR

FL111711 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Dec 82

[Text] Cuba and Czechoslovakia have signed a protocol in Prague for scientific and technical cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The protocol was signed by Fidel Castro Diaz, executive secretary of the Cuban Atomic Energy Commission, and his Czechoslovak counterpart, (Stanislav Havel). This cooperation plan is directed at the use of experimental nuclear reactors, at the exploitation of nuclear energy in medicine and agriculture and at the training of Cuban specialists in Czechoslovakia. The joint work plan will be in effect the next 2 years, beginning on 1 January 1983.

SOME BUSINESSES, SCHOOLS OPEN IN PARAMARIBO

FL132056 Bridgetown CANA in English 1955 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Paramaribo, Suriname, 13 Dec (CANA) -- Several schools, banks, gas stations and other business places in this former Dutch colony re-opened today -- six days after the military rulers said they had crushed a coup attempt -- but a dusk-to-dawn curfew remained in force, the official SURINAME NEWS AGENCY (SNA) reported.

The agency also said the Zanderij Airport had been closed again after Sunday's opening for a special Paramaribo-Amsterdam flight, and investigations into the December 7 "counterrevolutionary conspiracy" were continuing.

Suriname's military rulers, who took power in a February 1980 coup, had made a weekend appeal on radio to employers to re-open their businesses. Radio monitors said the businessmen had been warned to expect tough action from the military if the appeal was ignored. "Schools, banks and other business places in Paramaribo re-opened today, along with gas stations and most of the shops in the capital," SNA reported. "...There has been a bigger run than usual on banks and gas stations because those had been closed some days."

The unofficial death toll, following what the military said was a plot by the country's "rich economic elite" to topple it, has been put as high as 32, but the agency said the military was sticking to its figure of 15. No official list of victims had been released up to today but the GUYANA NEWS AGENCY said it had been informed those dead included Former Suriname Minister of Youth and Sport Andre Kamperveen, former Minister of Army and the Police E.A. Host, the Director of the Informa News Agency Joef Slagveer and ABC Radio News Editor Frank Wijngaarde.

Among the others were said to be chairman of the board of directors of the Suriname University, Dr Gerad Leckie, leader of the Moederbond Trade Union grouping, Cyril Daal, Baxuite Union leader Fred Derby, and Barristers Kenneth Gonsalves, C.K. Baboeram, and H.C. Reildwald.

The official version is that a group of suspected coup plotters was shot while trying to escape from custody, but there have been unconfirmed reports of executions. These prompted the Dutch Government's decision to stop military supplies and development aid to Suriname. "The military authority here has expressed doubts about the legitimacy of the Dutch Government's (plan) to restrict several agreements on cooperation with Suriname," the SNA reported. The military is now studying "several measures" which will cushion the impact of any Dutch actions, the agency said.

The military last week accepted the resignation of the civilian government. It was still unclear today when a new administration would be installed.

People Return to Work

PA132130 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2058 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Amsterdam, 13 Dec (LATIN-REUTER) -- Many people returned to their jobs today in Paramaribo, capital of Suriname, ending a protest strike against the armed forces, who claimed to have frustrated a coup d'etat last week, according to the Dutch News Agency, ANP.

The military leader of the former Dutch colony, Lt Col Daysi Bouterse, imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew after what he described as an attempted coup by the country's "economically wealthy elite." The Surinamese Government reported 15 persons killed in the violence and fires that occurred in Paramaribo, but diplomatic sources claimed the dead numbered at least 32.

ANP quoted private and church sources as saying the people returned to work due to "simple fear." Schools reopened but sent the students home due to the spotty attendance, the sources added. Church sources said a strange atmosphere prevailed in the capital and the situation was "threatening and very tense." Public gatherings continued to be banned and the people were afraid to speak on the streets, the sources added.

Travellers Report on Coup Events

NC131504 Paris AFP in English 1447 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Amsterdam, Netherlands, Dec 13 (AFP) -- The first passengers arriving here from Suriname since last week's military crackdown in the former Dutch colony today described the situation there as gloomy and tenuous, with rumors virtually the only source of information.

"I was told there are 400 Cubans in Suriname, but I didn't see them," said Dutch economics professor Peter Hoefnagels, one of 229 passengers who arrived aboard a Suriname Airlines DC-8. Some of the passengers said 37 or 38 persons had been executed in "National Military Council" actions. Others told of 21 corpses deposited in the municipal hospital mortuary, which was being called the "slaughter house."

Banks, department stores, schools and hotels had been closed in the capital city of Paramaribo, they said, but were to reopen today.

One passenger confirmed the death of leftist labor leader Fred Derby, reported by the Guyanese SUNDAY CHRONICLE.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

SUGAR WORKERS THREATEN STRIKE OVER BONUS PAY

FL140026 Bridgetown CANA in English 0010 GMT 14 Dec 82

[Text] Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Dec 13, CANA-REUTER -- Some 60,000 sugar workers threatened to paralyse the Dominican Republic's sugar harvest by a strike if the government here does not meet their demands for an end of the year bonus, worker representatives said today. A union committee representing workers from the State Sugar Council's (CEA) 12 mills threatened the strike if they do not receive the bonus equal to 30-days pay. The government, hard pressed by a drop in production and world prices for their major export, has so far offered to loan the workers 15-days pay which would be repayable at the end of the harvest.

The CEA which is the major sugar producer in the Caribbean country said it could not meet worker demands because the normal sugar harvest of 800,000 tonnes of previous years has dropped to 700,000 this year. President Salvador Jorge Blanco said he hoped the impasse between the workers and the CEA could be resolved soon but has declared the sugar harvest the highest national priority which would in effect allow the army and volunteers to enter the fields and cut the cane should the conflict remain unsettled. Workers, on the other hand, said they did not care if the harvest was declared top national interest and gave the CEA 72 hours to make a satisfactory offer. If no progress was gained at the end of that time representatives said they would then strike for 24 hours and after that indefinitely.

URUGUAY

UK PLANES ENROUTE TO FALKLANDS ALLOWED STOPOVERS

PY131811 Montevideo Radio El Espectador in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] A high-ranking government source, who stated that our country continues to support Argentina's claim of sovereignty over the Malvinas, disclosed that Uruguay will not prevent British planes from making technical stopovers on their way to the Islands. This statement was made in view of information received from London which reports that Uruguay has denied permission for British planes to make stopovers in Uruguayan territory until Great Britain starts negotiations with Argentina. The same report stated that, as a consequence, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher would have to cancel her visit to the islands scheduled for February. The sources pointed out that neither the British prime minister nor any other British citizen would be prevented from making a stopover in Uruguay, but once again pointed out that Uruguay continues to support the Argentine claim for sovereignty over the islands.

VENEZUELA

ENERGY MINISTER LEAVES 9 DEC FOR MIDDLE EAST

PA110424 Vienna OPECNA in Spanish 1455 GMT 10 Dec 82

[Text] Caracas, 10 Dec 82 (OPECNA) -- Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Humberto Calderon Berti left Caracas on Thursday on a tour of five OPEC countries in the Middle East and North Africa. During his trip, which includes stopovers in Algeria, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Iran, Calderon will discuss the present oil market situation as well as the OPEC oil ministers meeting to be held in Vienna on 19 December.

Through a communique released before his departure, Calderon said he would explore the possibilities for an "understanding" among the member countries. "Venezuela has traditionally played the role of mediator within OPEC," he said. "I am aware of the difficulties we face in achieving an understanding," Calderon said. However, he stressed that Venezuela believed in OPEC as the best instrument for the developing countries to defend an important raw material like hydrocarbons.